CT:AT:L:NT

NOV - 8 1961

Assistant Regional Commissioner
Alcohol and Tobacco Tax
Chicago, Illinois

For your information and whatever action you deem advisable, we are enclosing photostats of a communication dated October 26, 1961, from Mr. John Edgar Hoover, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation, together with photostats of accompanying report dated October 23, 1961, concerning an organization known as the "Minutemen". This information is also being furnished the Omaha region.

The November 3, 1961, issue of Life magazine contains an article on page 19 about this "Minutemen" organization. On October 23, 1961, the Associated Press released an article, copy enclosed, about field maneuvers held on October 22, 1961, near Collinsville, Illinois, which indicated that Rich Leuchli had been arrested and some guns subject to the National Firearms Act were seized. It would appear from the newspaper article that Mr. Leuchli may have incurred transfer tax imposed by section 5811 of the National Firearms Act if he furnished some fully automatic firearms to members of the "Minutemen" group. See section 5845(i) of the Act.

We have also observed that on page 28 of the September 15, 1961, issue of The Shotgun News, Mr. Leuchli has advertised for trade of the U.S. M14 army rifle magazines for the following M14 parts: stocks and handguards, trigger groups, sights, flash hiders, bolts, operating rods and/or gas cylinders. We have held the M14 rifle to be a firearm subject to the National Firearms Act (Rev.Rul. 55-317, C.B. 1955-2, 579).

It is suggested that you look into this matter and furnish us a report of the action taken.

(signed) Dwight E. Avis

Dwight E. Avis,
Director, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Division.

Enclosures

OTNEAL/dlw 11/6/61

Richard A. Lauchli stated that he has sold or traded approximately 65 of the unfinished magazines to this date and has a total of 13 magazines on hand. Lauchli further stated that he disposed of the magazines at various gun shows for the price of $5.00 each or in trade of other weapons. Lauchli also stated that these magazines were sold as adaptable for Remington Models 740, 742, and 760; and Winchester Models 88 and 100 (calibers 243, 308 and 358).

Lauchli also stated that the unfinished magazines for the M-14 rifle were the only parts in his possession and that he has never manufactured, assembled from parts, or had in his possession any M-14 rifle.

Norman Moulish, Investigator

Encl:
Memo of ASIC, dtd 11/15/61
MM